

Middlesex Recreation Commission
1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, NJ 08846
Commission Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2015

Chair Sherley Penrose opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Commission members present:

Glenn Dickey
Cassius Kennick
Sherley Penrose
Rich Rutkowski
Lileen Schwarz
Rich Tarbous

Members Absent:

Bob May

Also present:

Steve Greco, Council Liaison
Dina Fornataro-Healey, Recreation Director
Mike Girvan, Assist. Recreation Director

Cassius Kennick made a motion to accept October 2015 minutes with a second by Rich Rutkowski and approved by all members present.

Public Session:

1. Chris and Mary Kozak – 110 Wagner Street, requested to reinstate Ralph Forte as 7th-8th grade girls travel team assistant coach. Chris Kozak is the head coach. Recreation Director decided not to have Mr. Forte return as assistant coach since she never heard from him regarding the position. Commission agreed on the Recreation Director's decision until Mr. Forte is heard from.
2. Susan Montajes – 347 N. Lincoln Avenue, created and presented petition to keep Coach Kozak and Mr. Forte together.

Directors Report

- Basketball deadline to register was October 30th. There are 181 children registered.
- Basketball Clinic run by Jared Goldstein for 3rd-8th graders has 58 children registered and will end on November 19th. The clinic for 9th-12th grade boys run by Tom Hendricks has 16 boys registered and will end on November 19th.
- Wrestling has 24 children registered and began practice. Ken Beck will once again be the program coordinator.
- Soccer has 265 children playing. The season will end on November 21st.

- Yoga has 14 registered for the session. The session will be from September 14th through November 30th.
- Toddler programs have 39 children registered to the current session that ends on December 1st. We are accepting registration for the next session. There is also Disney on Ice tickets on sale to those in the program for the January 17, 2016 show at the Prudential Center.
- Bowling fall session will end on November 14th. The facility moved the recreation bowling to Saturday mornings. There are 2 children registered.
- Buddy Ball baseball program ended on October 17th with 11 children registered. The cheerleaders will continue to practice through the winter months in the Rec Center or Hazelwood School gym. There are 5 children registered. The baseball equipment was returned. Basketball will be planned for mid-late winter. As discussed, anyone wishing to be a Buddy must be at least 14 years old.
- Cross Country with Rich Thomasey will run through November 24th. There are 12 children in this program.
- Travel Basketball tryouts went well with Ball-U-Man. The girl's team did not have a tryout but had a work out because there was less than 12 girls who signed up. The teams will play in the Garden State League again this year. Letters will be sent to those who made the teams to turn in their payments.
- Borough Tree Lighting will be on December 12th.

Councilmatic report

1. Councilman Greco set up a meeting with the auditor on November 12th at 9am.

Trust Account and Account details report

Motion to accept made by Rich Rutkowski pending the auditors' approval and seconded by Cassius Kennick. Roll call was taken with all Commissioners approving.

Commission Committee reports - No reports

Board of Education Report - No representative

Correspondence - None

Volunteer nomination - None

New Business

1. Recreation Director asked for approval of continued employment of Christopher Shattle and Chris Fuscoletti as Facilities Managers at an hourly rate of \$12.00. Motion to hire Christopher Shattle and Chris Fuscoletti at said hourly rate was made by Rich Rutkowski with a second by Cassius Kennick. The role was called and all were in agreement. In addition, two facility managers should be hired at Watchung. The jobs will be posted soon.
2. The Commission approved the list of basketball and wrestling coaches which was given by the Rec Director. Motion was made to approve the list of basketball

and wrestling coaches pending certification and background checks by Rich Tarbous seconded by Glenn Dickey; roll call vote was taken, all in favor.

Old Business

1. Consideration has been asked to create soccer and basketball programs for high school students who wish to play while not on the high school teams. The fact is if Recreation is to expand and have more programs, such as this one for high school age residents, then additional full time help is required. Councilman Greco will advise the Mayor and Council about the need for more help
2. Recreation Director made a proposal to the HUD Committee for the men's and women's restrooms in the Recreation Center to be renovated with HUD funds. It would be completed in 2 phases. The women's restroom to be completed in 2015 and the men's restroom to be completed in 2016. This proposal will be revisited. Recently, photos of the restrooms have been taken.
3. Recreation Director would like to have the west side of the road in the back of MVP closed off to traffic on a permanent basis. With more use of the park, it is becoming a safety concern with children using the field on one side and the playground on the other. There is also more residents using the park to walk and ride bikes and traffic has become more of a concern. Commission directed the chair to write to the Mayor and Council explaining our position on this issue and asking for permanent closure of the road. Recreation Director met with Police Chief Geist regarding this issue. He explained there have been no complaints or accidents in that area. He suggested some actions that can be taken are having a counter for traffic, paint a crosswalk and install speed limit and slow children at play signs. The Commission accepted all of these actions as a start.

Seeing no other old or new business, Commissioner Penrose read a statement advising residents that the approved minutes will be available on the Borough Website within three working days of the meeting and the agenda for the next meeting will be posted on the Recreation Bulletin Board no later than 48 hours prior to the monthly meeting.

At 8:55 p.m., Commissioner Rich Rutkowski made a motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Cassius Kennick.

Next Recreation Commission meeting will be December 14th, 2015, 7:30 pm at the Recreation Center.

Minutes submitted by
Linda Chicarelli, Rec-Commission Secretary